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tally the book consists of the description and discussion of a number of types of occasions for the use of language which occur in the lives of practically every high-school pupil. These type occasions and the ways to meet them successfully are first discussed in general, although with definite illustrations, and then a number of specific opportunities for the same sort of talking or writing are suggested and it is supposed that the pupils will make use of them. As one reads the text it seems likely that this supposition is correct. Most pupils will be interested. This book provides both oral and written composition, with the assumption that there will be immediate criticism, both praise and censure. It presents a very considerable amount of rhetorical theory, but always with reference to an immediate employment in the solution of a pupil's actual problem. It makes use of grammatical facts as a foundation of rhetorical effectiveness but confines itself to a mere statement of those facts, evidently assuming that they have been previously taught. This latter fact and the maturity of the ideas in general indicate that the book will be most successful in the third and fourth years of high school, although the author says it is adapted to any grade, from the junior high school through the senior high school. It appears, then, that Mr. Law's book is the only one of the four which will not have to be supplemented by another text or by very skilful and extensive work upon the part of the teacher. Moreover, there is about it a certain enthusiasm and spirit of optimism which lead one to speak of it as a positive book.

W. W. H.

A "USEFUL WEAPON" IN THE COMPOSITION CLASS¹

I have the feeling that few secondhand copies of Morley's collection of familiar essays will ever be passed over the counters of student exchanges. Its appeal is too intimate: it is a book that one keeps. Like the ideal bed-book described in its pages, it gives "a limited, personal, mellow and companionable glow."

These essays range from John Macy's clear-visioned survey of American literature to the precious "Trivia" of Logan Pearsall Smith; from the sketch of Mary White, touching in its eloquent simplicity, to the droll jesting of A. P. Herbert on the uses of drawing when one is attending committee meetings.

¹ *Modern Essays*. Selected by CHRISTOPHER MORLEY. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1921. Pp. 351. \$1.60. *Modern Essays for Schools*. Selected by CHRISTOPHER MORLEY. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1921. Pp. 256. \$1.00.

Here are delicate pictures of winter mist on the frozen river, and words to conjure up the fragrance of hay fields in summer; the sharper flashes of color in a market that William McFee has seen; the "feeling of colossal power and of unintelligible disaster" which Rupert Brooke sensed at Niagara Falls. The brilliance of Max Beerbohm, the deep humanity of Joyce Kilmer, the incisive thrusts of Stuart P. Sherman, the sweet reasonableness of William Osler—yes, and the delicious foolery of Stephen Leacock—all are gathered into these pages.

Too, it seems to me that Christopher Morley has done an unconventional thing in the annals of book-making; certainly in the annals of schoolbook-making. In prefatory notes of a few paragraphs at the most, he has combined biographical and critical comment in what he deprecatingly calls "too much the manner of dressing gown and slippers." But no reader will be sorry for this unique touch. And his Preface matches in freshness and taste any essay in the book.

How this book does give life to a class in composition! But then, the choices were made, Morley says, "with a view to stimulating those who are themselves interested in the arts of writing," and with the hope that the book would prove "a small but useful weapon in the classroom."

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WRITINGS OF FOREIGN-BORN AMERICANS

We shall never understand our fellow-countrymen of foreign birth until we know what they think of America and of us, especially after they have got through the reconstruction process through which they must necessarily pass. With so much stupidity, so much racial dislike among officials who have to do with immigrants, it is a wonder that the latter think as well of America as they do. Some of the narratives of this book¹ are revelations that rouse indignation and anger; among them, too, are glorious tributes to the spirit of America that thrill the patriot heart. Anyone who wants to know the soul of the foreign-born may well begin with this book. Having read it, he will wish to go farther.

Unconsciously, too, these foreign-born writers have been among our wisest critics. It is well worth while to see what faults they find and consciously or unconsciously indicate.

¹ *The American Spirit in the Writings of Americans of Foreign Birth*. Selections chosen and edited by ROBERT E. STAUFFER. Boston: Christopher Publishing House, 1922, pp. 185. \$2.00.